

## CHAPTER FOUR

# HOW TO TALK TO GOD

### A. HOW DO I TALK TO GOD?

Prayer is simply talking with God from your heart. Prayer is your avenue for communicating with God. You will want to begin a daily habit of talking to the Lord. This is something you must schedule into your day right from the beginning. Also, because prayer is such a vital time for each Christian, this is one area the enemy works especially hard to hinder or destroy. In just a couple of weeks you can develop the habit of daily prayer so that talking to God will become as natural to you as breathing.

Some of your first questions might be, "What is prayer? To Whom do I pray? What do I pray about? Is God interested in every part of my life or just in the major things? How do I know that God really hears me?" Let's look at the Scriptures to see what God says about prayer.

#### 1. Jesus' example of prayer

What can you learn from Jesus' example in prayer?

Mark 1:35 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Attitudes in prayer

a. Psalm 5:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Psalm 55:17 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Psalm 62:8 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Psalm 63:1 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Promises to answer prayer

God does hear and answer prayer. What has God promised?

a. Jeremiah 33:3 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Matthew 7:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Ephesians 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_

4. When should we pray?

a. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Philippians 4:6,7 \_\_\_\_\_

What should our attitude be when we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. For whom should we pray?

a. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Ephesians 6:18 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Matthew 9:36-38 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Luke 6:28 \_\_\_\_\_

When you are first starting your prayer life, it is helpful to make a list of the people you want to pray for. Take a few moments and, based on the above Scriptures, write down the names of people you have on your heart to pray for. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Conditions to answered prayer

There are certain conditions to being effective in prayer. What are these conditions?

a. John 16:23,24

To Whom do we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

In Whose name do we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

b. John 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Mark 11:24 \_\_\_\_\_

d. 1 John 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

How can we know God hears us? \_\_\_\_\_

If we know God hears us, what can we expect? \_\_\_\_\_

**GOD'S WILL:** God's will is already revealed in His Word, the Bible. God's Word and God's will are identical. His will is His Word.

If you are praying about something that is in line with God's Word, you can be confident you are praying according to God's will. If you are praying about something that is not clearly revealed in God's Word, then in order to determine if it is God's will for your life, see if there would be any hindrances to your prayer, as discussed in Section 8 that follows. If there are no hindrances, you can be confident you are praying according to God's will.

## 7. The role of faith in prayer

What role does faith play in receiving an answer to prayer?

**FAITH:** Faith begins where the will of God is known. God's will is revealed in His Word. In a nutshell, faith is simply taking God at His Word. Faith is believing and acting like what God has said in His Word is true! Your faith can grow as you hear the Word of God.

Let's look at the workings of faith.

### a. Faith and patience

God hears your prayer the first time you pray. God sends the answer the first time you pray. However, we have an enemy, Satan, who is the god of this world, and he will do whatever he can to hinder us from receiving the answers to our prayers. It is at this point that we have to exercise our faith with patience. We have to maintain our belief in the promises of God. We must walk by faith and not by sight. As we stay in faith, refusing to doubt, the answer God sent to us will be manifested.

Hebrews 10:35,36 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 6:12,15 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

### b. Faith and confession

What we say, or confess, is vital to successful prayer. People who say negative things all the time will rarely receive consistent answers to their prayers because their negative confession negates their faith. God is a God of faith, and faith is positive, not negative.

**CONFESSION:** Confession means to say the same thing as. A “confession of sin” is to say the same thing about sin as God says. A “confession of faith” is to say the same thing about faith or anything God has to say about us in His Word. It is verbally agreeing with God. Your words can be a key to unlock the door to answered prayer.

Hebrews 10:23

What does this verse teach us about our confession of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 11:23

Jesus emphasized the importance of what we say in this verse. How many times did Jesus use the word “say” in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times did Jesus use the word “believe”? \_\_\_\_\_

The words of our mouth are very important. It is a good practice to put a guard on your mouth. Make it a point to discipline yourself to say only those things you believe are in accordance with God’s Word.

c. Faith and love

Galatians 5:6

What is necessary for faith to work? \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Hindrances to answered prayer

What type of things cause our prayers to be hindered?

a. Psalm 66:18 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Mark 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_

c. James 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

d. 1 John 3:21,22 \_\_\_\_\_

e. 1 Peter 3:7 (If you are married, what could hinder your prayers?) \_\_\_\_\_

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## B. PERSONAL APPLICATION

What is your plan for daily prayer? It is helpful to schedule a specific time each day when you will meet with the Lord and share with Him from your heart. You may want to start your prayer life by using some of the suggestions listed below.

To get into the habit of daily prayer, you may want to start a systematic program and keep a daily prayer journal. As you become more comfortable in prayer, you will depend more upon the Holy Spirit and less on lists and programs. However, many times in the initial stages of developing your prayer life, some prayer tools can help you develop discipline and consistency in your prayer life.

*Daily Prayer Suggestions:*

Praise and worship God for Who He is.

Thank God for what He has done and for what He will do.

Confess any known sin.

Make specific requests for yourself and others.

You may want to make a list of those you want to pray for. Your list might include the following:

government leaders

ministers (pastors, missionaries, workers)

fellow Christians

enemies

non-Christians

personal needs

## C. GROUP EXERCISE

*Scripture prayers to pray:*

God has given us anointed prayers in His Word. We can pray these prayers for ourselves and others, and we are guaranteed to get results. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul and others to pray certain prayers that are recorded in the New Testament. Use these prayers as a pattern for your own prayers. To pray these prayers for yourself and others, simply insert your name (or another's) in these prayers. You will see dynamic results!

As a group, look up the following Scriptures and pray these prayers for one another.

Ephesians 1:17-20

Ephesians 3:14-20

Colossians 1:9-12

Philippians 1:9-12